

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A computer comprising:
 - a primary processor;
 - primary memory;
 - a primary input/output (I/O) interface that communicates with said primary processor and said primary memory;
 - a primary display that communicates with said primary I/O interface, wherein said primary processor, said primary memory, and said primary display are operated in active and inactive modes and are powered down when said computer is in said inactive mode;
 - a secondary processor that dissipates less power than said primary processor; and
 - a secondary display that communicates with said secondary processor, wherein said secondary processor and said secondary display are powered up when said computer is in said inactive mode.
2. The computer of Claim 1 further comprising a secondary memory that communicates with said secondary processor, that is powered up when said computer is in said inactive mode and that has a lower storage capacity than said primary memory.

3. The computer of Claim 1 wherein said secondary processor and said secondary display support at least one of text messaging, e-mail delivery, securities quote retrieval and hot zone identification while said computer is in said inactive mode.

4. The computer of Claim 1 wherein said computer is a laptop and said secondary display is integrated with an outer surface of said laptop.

5. The computer of Claim 1 further comprising a disk drive system that communicates with said primary I/O interface, wherein said secondary processor and said secondary memory are integrated with said disk drive system.

6. The computer of Claim 1 further comprising a wireless network interface that communicates with said primary I/O interface, wherein said secondary processor and said secondary memory are integrated with said wireless network interface.

7. The computer of Claim 1 further comprising a secondary I/O device that communicates with said secondary processor.

8. The computer of Claim 1 wherein said secondary display supports touch pad operation.

9. The computer of Claim 1 wherein said computer is a desktop computer that includes an enclosure and wherein said secondary display is integrated with said enclosure.

10. A system comprising the computer of Claim 1 and further comprising:

a wireless network interface that communicates with said secondary processor;

a distributed communications system that communicates with said wireless network interface;

a server that communicates with said distributed communications system; and

an agent module that is executed by said secondary processor and that retrieves at least one of e-mail messages and securities data from said server.

11. The computer of Claim 1 further comprising a hot zone module that is executed by said secondary processor, that identifies when said computer is in a hot zone, and that provides a visual indication of said hot zone on said secondary display.

12. A computer having active and inactive modes, comprising:
a secondary processor; and
a secondary display that communicates with said secondary processor,

wherein said secondary processor and said secondary display are powered when said computer is in said inactive mode and support at least one of text messaging, e-mail delivery, securities quote retrieval and hot zone identification while said computer is in said inactive mode.

13. The computer of Claim 12 further comprising a secondary memory that communicates with said secondary processor and that is powered when said computer is in said inactive mode.

14. The computer of Claim 12 further comprising:
a primary processor;
a primary memory;
a primary I/O interface that communicates with said primary processor and said primary memory; and
a primary display that communicates with said primary I/O interface, wherein said primary processor, said primary memory, and said primary display are operated in active and inactive modes and are powered down when said computer is in said inactive mode.

15. The computer of Claim 14 wherein said secondary processor dissipates less power than said primary processor.

16. The computer of Claim 14 further comprising a secondary memory that communicates with said secondary processor, that is powered when said computer is in said inactive mode, and that has a lower storage capacity than said primary memory.

17. The computer of Claim 12 wherein said computer is a laptop and said secondary display is integrated with an outer surface of said laptop.

18. The computer of Claim 14 further comprising a disk drive system that communicates with said primary I/O interface, wherein said secondary processor is integrated with said disk drive system.

19. The computer of Claim 14 further comprising a wireless network interface that communicates with said primary I/O interface, wherein said secondary processor is integrated with said wireless network interface.

20. The computer of Claim 12 further comprising a secondary I/O device that communicates with said secondary processor.

21. The computer of Claim 12 wherein said secondary display supports touch pad operation.

22. The computer of Claim 12 wherein said computer is a desktop computer that includes an enclosure and wherein said secondary display is integrated with said enclosure.

23. A system comprising the computer of Claim 12 and further comprising:

- a wireless network interface that communicates with said secondary processor;

- a distributed communications system that communicates with said wireless network interface;

- a server that communicates with said distributed communications system; and

- an agent module that is executed by said secondary processor and that retrieves at least one of e-mail messages and securities data from said server.

24. The computer of Claim 14 further comprising a hot zone module that is executed by said secondary processor, that identifies when said computer is in a hot zone, and that provides a visual indication of said hot zone on said secondary display.

25. A computer comprising:
- primary processing means for processing data;
 - primary storage means for storing data;
 - primary input/output (I/O) interface means for communicating with said primary processing means and said primary storage means;
 - primary display means for displaying data and that communicates with said primary I/O interface means, wherein said primary processing means, said primary storage means, and said primary display means are operated in active and inactive modes and are powered down when said computer is in said inactive mode;
 - secondary processing means for processing data and that dissipates less power than said primary processing means; and
 - secondary display means for displaying data and that communicates with said secondary processing means, wherein said secondary processing means and said secondary display means are powered up when said computer is in said inactive mode.

26. The computer of Claim 25 further comprising secondary storage means that communicates with said secondary processing means, that is powered up when said computer is in said inactive mode and that has a lower storage capacity than said primary storage means.

27. The computer of Claim 25 wherein said secondary processing means and said secondary display means support at least one of text messaging, e-mail delivery, securities quote retrieval and hot zone identification while said computer is in said inactive mode.

28. The computer of Claim 25 wherein said computer is a laptop and said secondary display means is integrated with an outer surface of said laptop.

29. The computer of Claim 25 further comprising disk drive means for storing data on a magnetic medium and that communicates with said primary I/O interface means, wherein said secondary processing means and said secondary storage means are integrated with said disk drive means.

30. The computer of Claim 25 further comprising wireless network interface means for providing an interface to a wireless network and that communicates with said primary I/O interface means, wherein said secondary processing means and said secondary storage means are integrated with said wireless network interface means.

31. The computer of Claim 25 further comprising secondary I/O means for inputting user data and that communicates with said secondary processing means.

32. The computer of Claim 25 wherein said secondary display means supports touch pad operation.

33. The computer of Claim 25 wherein said computer is a desktop computer that includes an enclosure and wherein said secondary display means is integrated with said enclosure.

34. A system comprising the computer of Claim 25 and further comprising:

wireless network interface means for providing an interface to a wireless network and that communicates with said secondary processing means;

a distributed communications system that communicates with said wireless network interface means;

server means for serving e-mail messages and securities data and that communicates with said distributed communication system; and

agent means that is executed by said secondary processing means for retrieving at least one of e-mail messages and securities data from said server means.

35. The computer of Claim 25 further comprising hot zone means that is executed by said secondary processing means for identifying when said computer is in a hot zone and for providing a visual indication of said hot zone using said secondary display means.

36. A computer having active and inactive modes, comprising:
secondary processing means for processing data; and
secondary display means for displaying data and that
communicates with said secondary processing means,
wherein said secondary processing means and said secondary
display means are powered when said computer is in said inactive mode and
support at least one of text messaging, e-mail delivery, securities quote retrieval
and hot zone identification while said computer is in said inactive mode.

37. The computer of Claim 36 further comprising secondary storage
means for storing data wherein said secondary storage means communicates
with said secondary processing means and is powered when said computer is in
said inactive mode.

38. The computer of Claim 36 further comprising:
primary processing means for processing data;
primary storage means for storing data;
primary I/O interface means for communicating with said primary processing means and said primary storage means; and
primary display means for displaying data and that communicates with said primary I/O interface means, wherein said primary processing means, said primary storage means and said primary display means are operated in active and inactive modes and are powered down when said computer is in said inactive mode.

39. The computer of Claim 38 wherein said secondary processing means dissipates less power than said primary processing means.

40. The computer of Claim 38 further comprising secondary storage means for storing data, wherein said secondary storage means communicates with said secondary processing means, is powered when said computer is in said inactive mode, and has a lower storage capacity than said primary storage means.

41. The computer of Claim 36 wherein said computer is a laptop and said secondary display means is integrated with an outer surface of said laptop.

42. The computer of Claim 38 further comprising disk drive means for storing data on a magnetic medium and that communicates with said primary I/O interface means, wherein said secondary processing means is integrated with said disk drive means.

43. The computer of Claim 38 further comprising wireless network interface means for providing an interface to a wireless network and that communicates with said primary I/O interface means, wherein said secondary processing means is integrated with said wireless network interface means.

44. The computer of Claim 36 further comprising secondary I/O means for inputting user data and that communicates with said secondary processing means.

45. The computer of Claim 36 wherein said secondary display means supports touch pad operation.

46. The computer of Claim 36 wherein said computer is a desktop computer that includes an enclosure and wherein said secondary display means is integrated with said enclosure.

47. A system comprising the computer of Claim 36 and further comprising:

wireless network interface means for providing an interface to a wireless network and that communicates with said secondary processing means;

a distributed communications system that communicates with said wireless network interface means;

server means for serving at least one of e-mail messages and securities data and that communicates with said distributed communications system; and

agent means that is associated with said secondary storage means for retrieving at least one of e-mail messages and securities data from said server means.

48. The computer of Claim 38 further comprising hot zone means that is executed by said secondary processing means, for identifying when said computer is in a hot zone and for providing a visual indication of said hot zone on said secondary display means.

49. A method for operating a computer comprising:

- processing data using a primary processor during an active mode;
- storing data in primary memory during said active mode;
- displaying data using a primary display during said active mode;
- powering down said primary processor, said primary memory, and said primary display when said computer is in an inactive mode;
- processing data using a secondary processor, which dissipates less power than said primary processor, during said inactive mode; and
- displaying data using a secondary display that communicates with said secondary processor during said inactive mode.

50. The method of Claim 49 further comprising storing data in secondary memory that communicates with said secondary processor, wherein said secondary memory is powered up when said computer is in said inactive mode and has a lower storage capacity than said primary memory.

51. The method of Claim 49 further comprising using said secondary processor and said secondary display to support at least one of text messaging, e-mail delivery, securities quote retrieval and hot zone identification while said computer is in said inactive mode.

52. The method of Claim 49 wherein said computer is a laptop and further comprising integrating said secondary display with an outer surface of said laptop.

53. The method of Claim 49 further comprising integrating said secondary processor and said secondary memory with a disk drive system.

54. The method of Claim 49 further comprising integrating said secondary processor and said secondary memory with a wireless network interface.

55. The method of Claim 49 further comprising using a secondary I/O device for inputting user data during said inactive mode.

56. The method of Claim 49 wherein said secondary display supports touch pad operation.

57. The method of Claim 49 wherein said computer is a desktop computer that includes an enclosure and further comprising integrating said secondary display with said enclosure.

58. The method of Claim 49 further comprising retrieving at least one of e-mail messages and securities data from a server during said inactive mode.

59. The method of Claim 49 further comprising:
identifying when said computer is located in a hot zone; and
providing a visual indication of said identified hot zone on said
secondary display.

60. A method for operating a computer having active and inactive modes, comprising:

processing data using a secondary processor;

displaying data using a secondary display that communicates with said secondary processor;

powering said secondary processor and said secondary display when said computer is in said inactive mode; and

supporting at least one of text messaging, e-mail delivery, securities quote retrieval and hot zone identification using said secondary processor and said secondary display while said computer is in said inactive mode.

61. The method of Claim 60 further comprising storing data in secondary memory that communicates with said secondary processor and that is powered when said computer is in said inactive mode.

62. The method of Claim 60 further comprising:

- processing data using a primary processor when said computer is in said active mode;
- storing data using a primary memory when said computer is in said active mode;
- displaying data using a primary display; and
- powering down said primary processor, said primary memory, and said primary display when said computer is in said inactive mode.

63. The method of Claim 62 wherein said secondary processor dissipates less power than said primary processor.

64. The method of Claim 62 further comprising storing data in secondary memory that communicates with said secondary processor, that is powered when said computer is in said inactive mode, and that has a lower storage capacity than said primary memory.

65. The method of Claim 60 wherein said computer is a laptop and further comprising integrating said secondary display with an outer surface of said laptop.

66. The method of Claim 62 further comprising integrating said secondary processor with a disk drive system.

67. The method of Claim 62 further comprising integrating said secondary processor with a wireless network interface.

68. The method of Claim 60 further comprising inputting user data using a secondary I/O device.

69. The method of Claim 60 wherein said secondary display supports touch pad operation.

70. The method of Claim 60 wherein said computer is a desktop computer that includes an enclosure and further comprising integrating said secondary display with said enclosure.

71. The method of Claim 60 further comprising retrieving at least one of e-mail messages and securities data from a server using said secondary processor and said secondary memory.

72. The method of Claim 62 further comprising:
identifying when said computer is located in a hot zone; and
providing a visual indication of said identified hot zone on said secondary display.

73. The computer of Claim 1 wherein said secondary processor and said secondary display support PDA-like functionality.

74. The computer of Claim 1 wherein said computer is a laptop that includes a keyboard and wherein said secondary display is located inside of said laptop adjacent to said keyboard.

75. The computer of Claim 1 wherein said primary I/O interface is powered down during said inactive mode.

76. The computer of Claim 1 wherein said primary I/O interface is powered up during said inactive mode.

77. The computer of Claim 1 wherein said computer includes a keyboard and a mouse and wherein said primary I/O interface, said keyboard and said mouse are powered up during said inactive mode.

78. The computer of Claim 12 wherein said secondary processor and said secondary display support PDA-like functionality.

79. The computer of Claim 12 wherein said computer is a laptop that includes a keyboard and wherein said secondary display is located inside of said laptop adjacent to said keyboard.

80. The computer of Claim 14 wherein said primary I/O interface is powered down during said inactive mode.

81. The computer of Claim 14 wherein said primary I/O interface is powered up during said inactive mode.

82. The computer of Claim 14 wherein said computer includes a keyboard and a mouse and wherein said primary I/O interface, said keyboard and said mouse are powered up during said inactive mode.

83. The computer of Claim 25 wherein said secondary processing means and said secondary display means support PDA-like functionality.

84. The computer of Claim 25 wherein said computer is a laptop that includes a keyboard and wherein said secondary display means is located inside of said laptop adjacent to said keyboard.

85. The computer of Claim 25 wherein said primary I/O interface means is powered down during said inactive mode.

86. The computer of Claim 25 wherein said primary I/O interface means is powered during said inactive mode.

87. The computer of Claim 25 wherein said computer includes a keyboard and a mouse and wherein said primary I/O interface means, said keyboard and said mouse are powered during said inactive mode.

88. The computer of Claim 36 wherein said secondary processing means and said secondary display means support PDA-like functionality.

89. The computer of Claim 36 wherein said computer is a laptop that includes a keyboard and wherein said secondary display means is located inside of said laptop adjacent to said keyboard.

90. The computer of Claim 38 wherein said primary I/O interface means is powered up down during said inactive mode.

91. The computer of Claim 38 wherein said primary I/O interface means is powered during said inactive mode.

92. The computer of Claim 38 wherein said computer includes a keyboard and a mouse and wherein said primary I/O interface means, said keyboard and said mouse are powered during said inactive mode.

93. The method of Claim 49 wherein said secondary processor and said secondary display support PDA-like functionality.

94. The method of Claim 49 wherein said computer is a laptop that includes a keyboard and further comprising locating said secondary display inside of said laptop adjacent to said keyboard.

95. The method of Claim 49 wherein said computer includes a primary I/O interface and further comprising powering down said primary I/O interface during said inactive mode.

96. The method of Claim 49 wherein said computer includes a primary I/O interface and further comprising powering said primary I/O interface during said inactive mode.

97. The method of Claim 49 wherein said computer includes a primary I/O interface, a keyboard and a mouse and further comprising powering said primary I/O interface, said keyboard and said mouse during said inactive mode.

98. The method of Claim 60 wherein said secondary processor and said secondary memory display PDA-like functionality.

99. The method of Claim 60 wherein said computer is a laptop that includes a keyboard and wherein said secondary display is located inside of said laptop adjacent to said keyboard.

100. The method of Claim 60 wherein said computer includes a primary I/O interface and further comprising powering down said primary I/O interface during said inactive mode.

101. The method of Claim 60 wherein said computer includes a primary I/O interface and further comprising powering said primary I/O interface during said inactive mode.

102. The method of Claim 60 wherein said computer includes a primary I/O interface, a keyboard and a mouse and further comprising powering said primary I/O interface, said keyboard and said mouse during said inactive mode.